



# Graze*t*te

*The September Program,  
 "A Walk Through History:  
 A School Tour Sampler"  
 to be held September 27, 1999 at 7:30 PM at  
 Newman Church, Rumford*

Dave Kelleher will take us on a slide tour walk of the East Providence Conservation Trail as he does with the children. Virginia Berwick and Edna Anness will lead us on the house tour via slides and Gladys Panzarella will teach us eighteenth century games. It will be fun learning something new as the school children do when they take their morning tours.



One of the many school tours given by the Historical Society.

-photo by Virginia Berwick

## FLASH!!!

We are looking for articles for the sale in November!!! Can you sew, knit, bake, make jellies or food for the *Food Table*? Or... Do you have some nice "white elephants"? Plants?

Please see or call: Helen Smith, Gladys Panzarella or Ginny Berwick.

## Pomham Rocks Light dates back to 1871

By David Kelleher



The Pomham Rocks Light Station occupies a small island in the Providence River about 1,000 feet off the East Providence shore. The main building, erected in 1871, is a one-and-a-half-story, mansard-roofed, 28 by 28 foot, wood-frame keeper's house on a granite foundation. A wooden light tower rises two more stories at the center of the west side of the house.

(Continued on page 3)

## From the Attic

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

As we start the new Millennium we will be reminiscing over the events occurring in East Providence over the last one hundred years. Coincidentally, we will be finishing our first decade of operation as a *museum*. And incidentally, when we started in 1989 we laid out a projected ten-year plan and fifteen-year plan, all the parts of which we have accomplished.

A caller to the museum this summer inquired about our history here in East Providence and commented that she was told the only thing of importance in the City was the Carousel.

(continued on page 3)

## Board Briefs

Thanks to **Martha Vaillancourt** for serving on the telephone committee last year. She may rejoin us at a later date. In the meantime we would welcome another "Telephonic" or two, in addition to the seven callers we currently have.



The Hunt House was open this past summer on Sundays from July 11 through August 29 from 1 - 3 PM.

While we appreciate the people who came, it doesn't seem there is enough interest to do it another summer. We want to thank those who gave their time to be there on the Sunday afternoons: **Jesse and Jane Pacheco** (twice), **Mona Breault, Pat Henry, Brad and Thelma Stone, Nancy Wolfe, Sophie Frederick, Midge Welt, Diana McLean, Marion Kent, Earl and Ginny Berwick.** Without their help we could not have been open.

We will be looking for people to help with our **Christmas Bazaar** in November. Let us know if you can give some time. The date is **November 6** at the Hunt House.

Again... Thank you to the "Summer Sunday Volunteers". We do appreciate you giving your time.

**The John Hunt House is open Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 AM until Noon.**

### Annual Memberships

Annual memberships are due the anniversary month that each member joined. We suggest that you check the address label on your newsletter for that date.

Example: 9910 translates to Oct., 1999  
2003 translates to March, 2000

Your prompt payment will reduce the cost and labor involved in mailing reminders.

*Mona Breault, Membership Chairman, thanks you.*

### New Members

**Warm Welcome to Our New Members**

**Luella Mountain**  
**Dorothy Sampson Duane**  
**Brian & Sandra Turgeon and their**  
**children Kerian & Kellyn Cordiero**



## The GAZETTE

is published monthly by the  
**EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
(401) 438-1750

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Museum Curator	Edna Anness
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The  
**GAZETTE**  
is printed at



3 Crescent View Avenue, Riverside

The East Providence Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the heritage and enjoying the history of our city. If you are not a member, we invite you to join now.

Annual dues are \$10, individual or \$15, family.

Please make check payable to

**East Providence Historical Society**

Mail with form below to:

**Mona Breault**

**34 Josephine Avenue**

**Rumford, RI 02916**

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## From the Attic *(continued from Page 1)*

This year presents a good opportunity to dispel that notion and to reveal all of the interesting history of our City during this last century: architecture, arts, people who have affected our destiny, natural disasters, tragedies, war, industry, etc., etc. At the same time we will be preparing exhibits of the century about which you will hear more later as plans develop.

## Gifts to the Museum

**Marjorie Welt** - Memory box of memorabilia from the Class of 1946 from Central days through graduation.

**Virginia Whitcomb** - two quilts, one a wedding present to her parents; a painting by Harriet Briggs; 1916 book of rules of conduct for the E.P. Town Council; 1909 building laws of the Town; her father's 1918 membership scroll from the Town Council; a paper commemorating the authorization of electric street lights in East Providence; along with other papers.

**Edna Anness** - A sick cup for the bedroom.

**Fales & Ruth Peirce** - Collection of papers from the E. P. Citizen's League.



*Applause! Applause!*

## Grounds Committee

*by Ray Anderson, Chairman*

By the time you read this newsletter, **Phase II** of our landscaping project should be completed. **Greg Gammel** plans to have the Parks Department build necessary stone work and Cottage/Rock Garden plantings will be **completed by mid-September**. Donations to the Memorial Garden are being used to purchase heirloom-type plants. **Stop by and check things out.**

**Phase I**, the lawn, walkway and plantings in front of the air conditioner and Society sign have survived the drought. Aggressive watering has prevented plant loss. Some plants even look very well.

**Donations as memorials are still being accepted.** Phase III (final) will need substantial plantings. Make checks payable to

East Providence Historical Society  
and mail to the Society at

Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916, Attn: Ray Anderson.

A recent donation was made by **Helen Smith**, and from the **Riverside Junior High Teachers** in honor of the retirement of **Dennis Mullervy**.



*In memory of...*

*A donation was made to the Society's  
Memorial Fund  
in memory of  
Elaine Serowik*

*who died unexpectedly in August.  
Sadly Missed... Fondly Remembered*

## Pomham Rocks Light *(continued from page 1)*

To the east of the house is a small, gable-roofed, brick and wood frame storage building also erected in 1871 and converted in 1957 into a generator building. West of the house is a modular, galvanized-metal light tower constructed in 1974. Near the eastern end of the island, a timber-on-pile L-shaped wharf is connected to a 12-ft. by 130-ft. concrete sea wall built in 1939.

The light tower west of the house has been operating since its construction in 1974. At that time, the original beacon was deactivated and the dwelling was vacated by the Coast Guard. The property is now maintained by Mobil/Exxon Corporation.

Pomham Rocks Light Station is one of the oldest stations in Narragansett Bay and has served as a functional and picturesque landmark for over 100 years. Pomham Rock was acquired by the U.S. Government in 1871 and the station was established and built the same year by the Lighthouse Board of the U.S. Treasury Dept. It was one of a series constructed to guide marine traffic in and out of Providence Harbor. It conformed to a standard design widely used by the Treasury Dept. at the time and is today a well preserved example of its type. - *re-printed from the East Providence Post, August 19, 1999.*

## MEMORIAL FUND

The Society's Memorial Fund was established in 1993 in memory of past members for "the betterment of the Society and with no specific purpose." The Memorial Fund is a qualified endowment administered by the executive committee. Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the

East Providence Historical Society  
and mail to the Society at:

Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916



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**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER**

Monday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.  
 Members Meeting  
 Newman Church, Rumford  
 Program: "A Walk Through History"  
 Edna Anness/Dave Kelleher/  
 Gladys Panzarella

**OCTOBER**

Wednesday, October 6, 1999 7:30 p.m.  
 Board Meeting (*Members Welcome*)  
 John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Saturday, October 9 - **AUCTION**  
 Viewing 4:30 --- Auction 6 PM  
 Organizer: Linda Young, Society Member  
 Newman Church, Rumford

Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.  
 Members Meeting  
 Location & Program to be Announced

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Tuesday, September 21, 1:00 p.m.  
 "Rehoboth: The Ring of the Green"  
 Lecture and slides - Edna Anness  
 Rehoboth Congregational Church

**EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY  
 MARKER PROGRAM**

**Your Home May Be Eligible for a MARKER**  
 Any building in the City of East Providence which  
 contributes to the historical development or architectural  
 character of the City is eligible to be considered for a  
 historical marker. Send coupon to:

The Marker Program  
 East Providence Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774

I am interested in receiving information about the  
 East Providence Marker Program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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